



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION LUCKY CHARM
MEXICAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Mexican national residing in Webb City, Mo., has pleaded guilty in federal court to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo.

This conviction is the result of Operation Lucky Charm, a joint investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies into a large quantity of methamphetamine being distributed in southwest Missouri.

Polo Hinojosa-Garcia, 25, a citizen of Mexico residing in Webb City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge James C. England on Monday to the charge contained in a Sept. 22, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Hinojosa-Garcia** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine from Aug. 4 to Aug. 30, 2005, in Jasper County. **Hinojosa-Garcia** admitted that, on four separate occasions in August 2005, he delivered methamphetamine for the organization to an undercover law enforcement officer. More than 150 grams of methamphetamine is attributable to **Hinojosa-Garcia**.

Hinojosa-Garcia is the seventh defendant to plead guilty to charges arising from Operation Lucky Charm.

Carlos Mulgado, 37, **Raul Alberto-Guerrero**, 31, and **Israel Sanchez-Mendoza**, also known as Geronimo Velasquez-Gomez, 29, all citizens of Mexico residing in Carthage, Mo., and **Armando Figueroa-Dominguez**, 31, a citizen of Mexico residing in Rogers, Ark., pleaded guilty to their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy on Feb. 2, 2006. **Noel Fonseca-Garcia**, 21, a citizen of Mexico residing in Pittsburgh, Kan., pleaded guilty on Jan. 26, 2006, to his role

in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Sanchez-Mendoza also pleaded guilty to being in possession with the intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 11, 2005, in Jasper County. On Aug. 11 and 12, 2005, law enforcement officers seized from **Sanchez-Mendoza** \$12,369, which was derived from the sale of methamphetamine and which has been administratively forfeited to the government. **Figuerroa-Dominguez** also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting another person to possess with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine on Aug. 30, 2005, in Jasper County.

Under federal statutes, each of the co-conspirators could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

In a separate but related case, **Isaac Alberto-Guerrero**, 28, a citizen of Mexico living in Carthage, pleaded guilty on Feb. 2, 2006, to the charges contained in a separate federal indictment that was also returned on Sept. 22, 2005, as a result of Operation Lucky Charm.

Isaac Alberto-Guerrero admitted that he was an illegal alien from Mexico while in possession of a Hi-Point Firearms 9 mm pistol and 44 rounds of ammunition on Aug. 17, 2005, at his residence in Carthage. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an alien unlawfully in the United States to be in possession of a firearm. Under federal statutes, **Isaac Alberto-Guerrero** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. They were investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Jasper County Drug Task Force and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow